

Legislative Report
University of Virginia -- Office of State Governmental Relations
Monday, January 15, 2024

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HB8 [Medical Ethics Defense Act; established.](#)

Companion Bill: SB153

Chief Patron: Ware

Summary:

Establishes the right of a medical practitioner, health care institution, or health care payer not to participate in or pay for any medical procedure or service that violates such medical practitioner's, health care institution's, or health care payer's conscience, as those terms and conditions are defined in the bill. The bill provides protections for medical practitioners who disclose violations of the bill or report violations of laws or ethical guidelines for the safe provision of any medical procedure or service. The bill also provides a private right of action for any party harmed by violations of the bill.

Status:

12/01/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24100711D

12/01/23 House: Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

HB23 [Weapons; possession or transportation into facility that provides mental health services, etc.](#)

Chief Patron: Laufer

Summary:

Makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person to possess in or transport into any facility that provides mental health services or developmental services in the Commonwealth, including a hospital or an emergency department or other facility rendering emergency medical care, any (i) firearm or other weapon designed or intended to propel a missile or projectile of any kind; (ii) knife, except a pocket knife having a folding metal blade of less than three inches; or (iii) other dangerous weapon, including explosives and stun weapons. The bill provides that any such firearm, knife, explosive, or weapon is subject to seizure by a law-enforcement officer and specifies exceptions to the prohibition.

Status:

12/14/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24103473D

12/14/23 House: Referred to Committee on Public Safety

01/13/24 House: Assigned PS sub: Firearms

HB29 [Budget Bill.](#)

Companion Bill: SB29

Chief Patron: Torian

Summary:

Amends Chapter 2 of the Acts of Assembly of 2022, Special Session I, as amended by Chapter 769 of the Acts of Assembly of 2023, as further amended by Chapter 1 of the Acts of Assembly of 2023, Special Session I.

Status:

12/20/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104095D
12/20/23 House: Referred to Committee on Appropriations

HB30 **[Budget Bill.](#)**

Companion Bill: SB30

Chief Patron: Torian

Summary:

Provides for all appropriations of the Budget submitted by the Governor of Virginia in accordance with the provisions of § 2.2-1509 of the Code of Virginia, and provides a portion of revenues for the two years ending respectively on the thirtieth day of June 2025 and the thirtieth day of June 2026.

Status:

12/20/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104112D
12/20/23 House: Referred to Committee on Appropriations

HB34 **[Statute of limitations; medical debt payment period.](#)**

Chief Patron: Clark

Summary:

Provides that the statute of limitations for an action on any contract, written or unwritten, to collect medical debt, including actions brought by the Commonwealth, is three years from the original date of a health care service unless the contract with a hospital or health care provider is for a payment plan that allows for a longer period of time for the collection of debt by the hospital or health care provider.

Status:

12/18/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101239D
12/18/23 House: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

HB48 **[Higher educational institutions, public; admissions applications, legacy admissions, etc.](#)**

Companion Bill: SB46

Chief Patron: Helmer

Summary:

Prohibits any public institution of higher education from providing any manner of preferential treatment in the admissions decision to any student applicant on the basis of such student's legacy status, defined in the bill, or such student's familial relationship to any donor to such institution.

Status:

12/21/23 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104163D

12/21/23 House: Referred to Committee on Education

HB163 **Higher educational institutions, public; student identification cards, contact information.**

Chief Patron: Cole

Summary:

Requires each public institution of higher education that issues student identification cards to clearly print and conspicuously label on each student identification card, in addition to the "988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline," the contact information of the following emergency services: (i) the law enforcement, fire department, and emergency medical services serving the geographical area in which such institution is located; (ii) the institution's campus police department and any additional security departments or services and emergency medical services or health departments available on campus; and (iii) the sexual assault crisis center or victim support service with which the institution entered into a memorandum of understanding pursuant to relevant law and the National Sexual Assault Hotline. The bill requires each such institution to annually review the required contact information to ensure that it is accurate and current.

Status:

01/02/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101608D

01/02/24 House: Referred to Committee on Education

HB207 **Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program; established, report.**

Chief Patron: Simonds

Summary:

Establishes the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program (the Program) to address student hunger at public institutions of higher education. The bill provides that the Program shall be managed by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and available for participation by public institutions of higher education; however, participation in the Program shall be optional for such institutions. Under the bill, if a public institution of higher education satisfies certain criteria set out in the bill, including creating initiatives on campus to address student hunger, it shall be designated as a "Hunger-Free Campus" and

the Council shall award a grant to such institution. A public institution of higher education that receives a grant under the bill shall utilize the funds to support on-campus efforts and initiatives to eliminate student hunger at such institution. The bill requires the Council to submit a report to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education no later than two years after the establishment of the Program that shall include (i) the total number and amounts of grant awards, (ii) information about the impact that the Program has had on establishing additional hunger-free campuses at public institutions of higher education and reducing the number of students experiencing food insecurity, and (iii) recommendations regarding the potential establishment of an annual appropriation for the Program.

Status:

01/04/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101303D

01/04/24 House: Referred to Committee on Education

HB211 [Higher educational institutions, public; Dept. of Education to audit education preparation programs.](#)

Chief Patron: Martinez

Summary:

Changes from once every seven years to biennially the frequency with which the Department of Education is required to audit each education preparation program for compliance with the requirements set forth in relevant law relating to student coursework and mastery in science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction.

Status:

01/04/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24102043D

01/04/24 House: Referred to Committee on Education

HB342 [Naloxone or other opioid antagonists; possession by state agencies, guidelines for private employer.](#)

Chief Patron: Hope

Summary:

Requires the Department of General Services, in consultation with the Department of Health, to promulgate regulations for the possession and the administration by state employees of naloxone or other opioid antagonists used for overdose reversal to a person who is believed to be experiencing or about to experience a life-threatening opioid overdose and requires each state agency to possess such naloxone or other opioid antagonist used for overdose reversal in accordance with such regulations. The bill also requires the Department of Health, in consultation with the Safety and Health Codes Board, to issue guidelines for the possession and administration of naloxone or other opioid antagonists by private employers used for overdose reversal to a person who is believed to be experiencing or about to experience a life-threatening opioid overdose.

Status:

01/05/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24100674D

01/05/24 House: Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

HB366 [Va. Nat'l Guard State Tuition Assistance Program; provisions relating to eligibility for grants.](#)

Companion Bill: SB219

Chief Patron: Reid

Summary:

Makes several changes to the Virginia National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program, including (i) making the provisions relating to the requirements and conditions for eligibility for and award of grants under the Program subject to regulations as prescribed by the Adjutant General, (ii) eliminating the requirement to satisfy financial obligations with the institution of higher education at the beginning of each semester, (iii) simplifying the requirements relating to academic performance and good standing, and (iv) providing that any grant awarded shall be in an amount equivalent to the difference between the full cost of tuition and fees at the institution of higher education less any other educational benefits for which an individual is eligible as a member of the National Guard.

Status:

01/06/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104415D

01/06/24 House: Referred to Committee on Education

HB369 [Sexual misconduct policies; SCHEV to convene task force on combating violence, civil penalty.](#)

Chief Patron: Martinez

Summary:

Requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to appoint and convene a task force on combating sexual violence for the purpose of developing a base sexual misconduct campus climate survey to be distributed to institutions of higher education no less than annually. The bill defines "institution of higher education" as any public institution of higher education or any private institution of higher education. The bill permits each institution of higher education to append campus-specific questions to the base survey and, within 120 days after completion of the survey, requires each institution to submit a summary of the results to the Director of the Council and post a summary of the results on the institution's website in an easily accessible manner. The bill also requires survey data to be posted on the Council's website.

The bill directs each institution of higher education to establish a written memorandum of understanding with a sexual assault crisis center, domestic violence center, or other victim support service in order to

provide sexual assault victims with immediate access to a confidential, independent advocate who can provide a trauma-informed response that includes an explanation of options for moving forward. Currently, only Richard Bland College and each baccalaureate public institution of higher education and nonprofit private institution of higher education are required to enter into such agreements.

The bill requires each institution of higher education to include in its campus security policy the designation of at least one confidential resource advisor whose role shall be to serve as a confidential resource for students and employees to discuss alleged acts of sexual misconduct and receive information on resources available to such students or employees. The bill creates a statutory privilege between the confidential resource advisor and a student or employee who is sharing information with such confidential resource advisor. The bill sets out required awareness programming and training for students and employees to be conducted each year by each institution of higher education. The bill also requires each institution of higher education to adopt a policy on sexual misconduct that includes information set out in the bill and provides information that the institution shall provide to parties involved in an alleged incident of sexual misconduct.

The bill sets forth data reporting requirements of sexual misconduct incidences and investigations that each institution of higher education shall prepare annually. After reasonable notice and opportunity for a hearing, upon determination that an institution of higher education has violated or failed to carry out any provision or any rule adopted under the bill, the Director may impose a civil penalty upon such institution for each violation not to exceed \$150,000, which shall be adjusted for inflation annually, or one percent of an institution's annual operating budget, whichever is lower.

Status:

01/06/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101931D

01/06/24 House: Referred to Committee on Rules

HB454 [Firearm/explosive material; carrying w/in Capitol Square or bldg. owned or leased by Commonwealth.](#)

Companion Bill: SB383

Chief Patron: Callsen

Summary:

Limits the exemption from the prohibition on the carrying of any firearm or explosive material within any building owned or leased by the Commonwealth or agency thereof or any office where employees of the Commonwealth or any agency thereof are regularly present for the purpose of performing their official duties that currently applies to any property owned or operated by a public institution of higher education to instead apply to any individual within a building owned or operated by a public institution of higher education who possesses a weapon as part of such public institution of higher education's curriculum or activities or as part of any organization authorized by such public institution of higher education to conduct its programs or activities within such building.

Status:

01/08/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24103011D

01/08/24 House: Committee

01/08/24 House: Impact statement from VCSC (HB454)

01/12/24 House: Impact statement from DPB (HB454)

HB486 Virginia Higher Education Scholarship Act Fund and Program; created and established.

Chief Patron: Garrett

Summary:

Requires, beginning with the incoming freshman class in the 2025 academic year, the board of visitors of each baccalaureate public institution of higher education, with the exception of Norfolk State University, Virginia Military Institute, and Virginia State University, to ensure that the annual percentage of undergraduate non-Virginia students in each incoming freshman class does not exceed 45 percent. The bill also establishes the Virginia Higher Education Scholarship Act Fund and Program whereby certain Virginia public high school graduates who graduated at or near the top of their graduating classes are permitted to apply to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia for a scholarship in an amount equal to the cost of tuition, room and board, and mandatory fees to attend a public institution of higher education enumerated in the bill for eight semesters.

Status:

01/08/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24102067D

01/08/24 House: Committee

HB509 Public institutions of higher education; policies; individuals with disabilities.

Companion Bill: SB21

Chief Patron: Cohen

Summary:

Requires each public institution of higher education to adopt a policy that makes certain documentation or evidence enumerated in the bill that is submitted by an enrolled or admitted student sufficient to establish that the student is an individual with a disability. The bill requires each such policy to include a transparent and explicit process by which the institution determines eligibility for accommodations for an individual with a disability and requires each such institution to disseminate information about such process to students, the parents of students as appropriate, and faculty in accessible formats, including during any student orientation, and make such information available on a conspicuous and publicly accessible page on the institution's website.

Status:

01/08/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24100566D

HB580 [Animal testing facilities; public notification.](#)

Companion Bill: SB411

Chief Patron: Simonds

Summary:

Requires any animal testing facility, contract testing facility, or manufacturer, as defined in relevant law, that uses an animal test method to make publicly available, on or before December 1 for the preceding federal fiscal year, the total number of animals used for research, education, testing, or experimental, scientific, or biomedical purposes. The bill requires the report to identify and group such animals according to species (i) by displaying a link to access such information on the homepage or landing page of the animal testing facility's, contract facility's, or manufacturer's website or (ii) if such animal testing facility does not have a website, by making such information available by means of a press release or other similar publication.

Status:

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24102144D

01/09/24 House: Committee

HB647 [Public education; student literacy measures.](#)

Companion Bill: SB624

Chief Patron: Coyner

Summary:

Clarifies several provisions of the Virginia Literacy Act (the Act), enacted during the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly and effective with the 2024-2025 school year, including (i) clarifying that the term "evidence-based literacy instruction" does not include practices that instruct students to gain meaning from print through the use of (a) three-cueing, which includes semantic, syntactic, and graphophonic cues; (b) meaning, structure, and visual cues; or (c) visual memory for word recognition; (ii) removing the option to use a literacy screener approved by the Department of Education for certain purposes enumerated in the Act; (iii) requiring the Department to develop a list of core literacy curricula for students in kindergarten through grade five and supplemental instruction practices and programs and intervention programs for students in kindergarten through grade eight that consist of evidence-based literacy instruction aligned with science-based reading research; and (iv) requiring each divisionwide literacy plan to address how the local school board will align (a) core reading and literacy curriculum for students in kindergarten through grade five and (b) screening, supplemental instruction, and interventions for students in kindergarten through grade eight with evidence-based literacy instruction practices aligned with science-based reading research.

Status:

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24100696D

01/09/24 House: Committee

HB706 [Public secondary schools; Internet safety education required, report.](#)

Chief Patron: Webert

Summary:

Requires the Board of Education to develop and approve objectives for Internet safety education at the middle and high school grade levels to be required of all students in grades six through 12, and to provide for the infusion of such objectives in the relevant Standards of Learning and in career and technical education. The bill also requires the Board, in consultation with the Internet Safety Advisory Council or another appropriate entity, to develop a model curriculum for such Internet safety education. The bill requires each public secondary school to provide instruction on Internet safety education in accordance with the educational objectives and model curriculum developed by the Board. The bill also requires each public institution of higher education to provide instruction on the principles of Internet safety as a part of an existing general education course, a first-year orientation program, or another appropriate program or course and directs the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to encourage private institutions of higher education to provide instruction on the principles of Internet safety.

Status:

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101130D

01/09/24 House: Committee

HB713 [Higher educational institutions; campus safety and emergency preparedness training.](#)

Chief Patron: Torian

Summary:

Requires the governing board of each public institution of higher education to develop and implement policies requiring that a campus safety and emergency preparedness training program be provided to and completed by all first-year students by the first day of the fall academic semester and reviewed biennially by each returning student at such institution. The bill provides that such training program will focus on active shooter event preparedness and may be offered in any format and include any supplementary materials as the governing board of each such institution deems appropriate. Finally, the bill directs the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to encourage private institutions of higher education to develop and implement policies requiring a campus safety and emergency preparedness training program be provided to each first-year student by the first day of the fall academic semester and reviewed biennially by each returning student at such institution.

Status:

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24100533D

01/09/24 House: Committee

HB715 [Capital outlay plan; repeals existing six-year capital outlay for projects to be funded.](#)

Companion Bill: SB601

Chief Patron: Torian

Summary:

Updates the six-year capital outlay plan for projects to be funded entirely or partially from general fund-supported resources.

Status:

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24102528D

01/09/24 House: Committee

HB818 [Virginia Freedom of Information Act; definition of meeting.](#)

Companion Bill: SB36

Chief Patron: Cherry

Summary:

Amends the definition of "meeting" as it relates to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to clarify that a gathering of two or more members of a public body is not a meeting if there is no discussion or transaction of any public business, defined in the bill, by the members of the public body and that certain educational trainings are not meetings subject to FOIA. The bill is in response to the decision of the Supreme Court of Virginia in *Gloss v. Wheeler* (2023) and is a recommendation of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council.

Status:

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104175D

01/09/24 House: Committee

HB827 [Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program; established, report.](#)

Chief Patron: Cousins

Summary:

Establishes the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program (the Program) to address student food insecurity at public institutions of higher education. The bill provides that the Program shall be managed by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and available for participation by public institutions of higher

education; however, participation in the Program shall be optional for such institutions. Under the bill, if a public institution of higher education satisfies certain criteria set out in the bill, including creating initiatives on campus to address student food insecurity, it shall be designated as a "Hunger-Free Campus" and the Council shall award a grant to such institution. A public institution of higher education that receives a grant under the bill shall utilize the funds to support on-campus efforts and initiatives to eliminate student food insecurity at such institution. The bill requires the Council to submit a report to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education no later than two years after the establishment of the Program.

Status:

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104722D

01/09/24 House: Committee

HB861 [Weapons; possession or transportation; facility that provides mental health services or development.](#)

Companion Bill: SB515

Chief Patron: Hernandez

Summary:

Makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person to knowingly possess in or transport into any facility that provides mental health services or developmental services in the Commonwealth, including a hospital or an emergency room or other facility rendering emergency medical care, any (i) gun or other weapon designed or intended to propel a missile or projectile of any kind; (ii) knife, except a pocket knife having a folding metal blade of less than three inches; or (iii) other dangerous weapon, including explosives and stun weapons. The bill provides that any such firearm, knife, explosive, or weapon is subject to seizure by a law-enforcement officer and specifies exceptions to the prohibition.

Status:

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101429D

01/09/24 House: Committee

HB881 [Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program; established, report.](#)

Chief Patron: Bulova

Summary:

Establishes the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program (the Program) to address student hunger at public institutions of higher education. The bill provides that the Program shall be managed by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and available for participation by public institutions of higher education; however, participation in the Program shall be optional for such institutions. Under the bill, if a public institution of higher education satisfies certain criteria set out in the bill, including creating initiatives on campus to address student hunger, it shall be designated as a "Hunger-Free Campus" and

the Council shall award a grant to such institution. A public institution of higher education that receives a grant under the bill shall utilize the funds to support on-campus efforts and initiatives to eliminate student hunger at such institution. The bill requires the Council to submit a report to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education no later than two years after the establishment of the Program that shall include (i) the total number and amounts of grant awards, (ii) information about the impact that the Program has had on establishing additional hunger-free campuses at public institutions of higher education and reducing the number of students experiencing food insecurity, and (iii) recommendations regarding the potential establishment of an annual appropriation for the Program.

Status:

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101332D

01/09/24 House: Committee

HB980 **[Institutions of higher education; students who report act of hazing or bullying experienced.](#)**

Chief Patron: Tran

Summary:

Requires that any student who reports to a public institution of higher education or nonprofit private institution of higher education an act of hazing or an act of bullying experienced as the result of a report of an act of hazing shall be referred to an individual or entity that is qualified to provide the appropriate ongoing mental and behavioral health support.

Status:

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101461D

01/09/24 House: Committee

HB981 **[Public institutions of higher education; tuition and financial aid; dependency override.](#)**

Chief Patron: Willett

Summary:

Requires each public institution of higher education to develop, maintain, and post publicly on the financial aid page of such institution's website informational materials relating to the dependency override application process and to review and update such materials as necessary to reflect current federal law and guidance on such process. The bill requires such informational materials to include, in a language and format accessible to students enrolled at and potential applicants for admission to such institution, (i) an explanation of the purpose of and eligibility requirements for a dependency override, (ii) an explicit list of the circumstances on which a student may base a dependency override application, (iii) an explanation of the dependency override application process at such institution, and (iv) links to relevant federal guidance on the dependency override process.

Status:

01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24103526D
01/09/24 House: Committee

HB1001 [Collective bargaining by public employees; labor organization representation.](#)

Companion Bill: SB374

Chief Patron: Tran

Summary:

Repeals the existing prohibition on collective bargaining by public employees. The bill creates the Public Employee Relations Board, which shall determine appropriate bargaining units and provide for certification and decertification elections for exclusive bargaining representatives of state employees and local government employees. The bill requires public employers and employee organizations that are exclusive bargaining representatives to meet at reasonable times to negotiate in good faith with respect to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment. The bill repeals a provision that declares that, in any procedure providing for the designation, selection, or authorization of a labor organization to represent employees, the right of an individual employee to vote by secret ballot is a fundamental right that shall be guaranteed from infringement.

Status:

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24102581D
01/10/24 House: Committee

HB1008 [Public institutions of higher education; financial value transparency information.](#)

Chief Patron: Lovejoy

Summary:

Requires each public institution of higher education to require each student enrolled at such institution to sign, at the time such student enrolls in such institution or declares or changes his academic major, as defined in the bill, an acknowledgement form outlining (i) the total cost of completing such academic major and (ii) an estimate of the annual income such student could expect to earn upon completing such academic major, based on the median income potential of such academic major as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States or another reputable source.

Status:

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101218D
01/10/24 House: Committee

HB1059 Hospital price transparency; private right of action; patient payment disputes; noncompliance.

Chief Patron: Helmer

Summary:

Allows patients, if a hospital is not in compliance with hospital price transparency laws on the date that an elective procedure, test, or service is provided to a patient by the hospital, and the noncompliance is related to such elective procedure, test, or service, to bring an action, individually or jointly, against the hospital to recover payment of the price of the elective procedure, test, or service. Under the bill, if a hospital is found not in compliance with hospital price transparency laws under such circumstances, the hospital is liable for the price of the elective procedure, test, or service provided; an additional equal amount as liquidated damages; interest accruing from the date the elective procedure, test, or service was provided; and reasonable attorney fees and costs. If a hospital is found not in compliance with hospital price transparency laws under such circumstances, the hospital is liable for an amount equal to triple the amount of the price of the elective procedure, test, or service and reasonable attorney fees and costs.

Status:

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104639D

01/10/24 House: Committee

HB1066 Commission to Study the History of the Uprooting of Black Communities by Public Institutions.

Chief Patron: McQuinn

Summary:

Establishes the 19-member legislative Commission to Study the History of the Uprooting of Black Communities by Public Institutions of Higher Education for the purpose of studying and determining (i) whether any public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth has purchased, expropriated, or otherwise taken possession of property owned by any individual within the boundaries of a community in which a majority of the residents are Black in order to establish or expand the institution's campus and (ii) whether and what form of compensation or relief would be appropriate for any such individual or any of his lineal descendants. The bill sunsets on July 1, 2027.

Status:

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101945D

01/10/24 House: Committee

HB1079 College partnership laboratory schools; Early College Model Program established.

Chief Patron: Coyner

Summary:

Establishes the Early College Model Program whereby any public institution of higher education may establish a college partnership laboratory school in which each enrolled high school student earns, at no cost to the student, an associate degree or a bachelor's degree concurrently with a high school diploma. Under the bill, provisions of existing law relating to the establishment of college partnership laboratory schools apply to such schools established pursuant to the Program but with certain conditions and exceptions, including (i) requiring a college partnership laboratory school established pursuant to the Program to be administered and governed by the Department of Education and (ii) prohibiting any enrolled student from being charged tuition for the college courses in which the student is dually enrolled and requiring the college partnership laboratory school to receive the statewide average share of Standards of Quality per pupil state funding, including the per pupil share of state sales tax funding in basic aid, for each student enrolled in such school to support the instruction of each such student in the fall and spring semesters.

Status:

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24100545D
01/10/24 House: Committee

HB1095 [Commonwealth information security requirements.](#)

Companion Bill: SB222

Chief Patron: Oates

Summary:

Requires state public bodies, defined in the bill, to (i) comply with the Commonwealth's security policies and standards, (ii) ensure each of their employees completes information security training, (iii) conduct regular security audits, (iv) report the results of such audits to the appropriate entity, and (v) implement security monitoring and enter into memoranda of understanding with the CIO for sharing information with the Commonwealth's central information security systems. The bill directs the Chief Information Officer of the Commonwealth to (a) publish and maintain a list of the Commonwealth's security policies and standards with which state public bodies are required to comply, (b) ensure that transition meetings with state public bodies occur, and (c) document such transitions and any exemptions from the requirements of the bill.

Status:

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24105090D
01/10/24 House: Committee

HB1108 [Virginia Public Procurement Act; construction management and design-build contracting.](#)

Companion Bill: SB249

Chief Patron: Carr

Summary:

Limits the use of construction management or design-build contracts by state public bodies and covered institutions for complex projects. The bill requires state public bodies, covered institutions, and local public bodies to provide documentation of the processes used for the final selection of a contract to all the unsuccessful applicants upon request. The bill adds certain requirements for covered institutions, including posting all documents exchanged between the Department of General Services and the covered institution on the central electronic procurement website eVA and requires approval by the covered institution's board of visitors or governing board if the covered institution chooses to proceed with construction management or design-build against the recommendation of the Department. The bill requires a local public body to adopt a resolution or motion to use construction management or design-build prior to issuing a Request for Qualifications and to publish notice of such resolution or motion on its website or eVA. Finally, the bill provides that the Department shall report annually, for any construction management or design-build project, on the qualifications that made such project complex.

Status:

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24103223D

01/10/24 House: Committee

HB1120 [K-12 schools and institutions of higher education; student participation in women's sports.](#)

Chief Patron: Oates

Summary:

Requires each interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural, or club athletic team or sport sponsored by a public school, or any other school that is a member of the Virginia High School League, or by a public institution of higher education to be expressly designated as one of the following based on the biological sex of the students who participate on the team or in the sport: (i) males, men, or boys; (ii) females, women, or girls; or (iii) coed or mixed if participation on such team or sport is open to both males and females. The bill prohibits any such team or sport that is expressly designated for females from being open to students whose biological sex is male. The bill also provides that in the event of a dispute as to the biological sex of any student seeking to participate on any interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural, or club athletic team or sport that is expressly designated for males or females, such student may establish biological sex by presenting to the school or institution a signed physician's statement that attests to such student's biological sex based solely on (a) the student's internal and external reproductive anatomy; (b) the student's normal endogenously produced levels of testosterone; and (c) an analysis of the student's genetic makeup.

The bill prohibits any government entity, licensing or accrediting organization, or athletic association or organization from entertaining a complaint, opening an investigation, or taking any other adverse action against any such school or institution of higher education based on a violation of the provisions of the bill

and creates a cause of action for any school or institution of higher education that suffers harm as a result of a violation of the bill. Finally, the bill creates a civil cause of action for any student who suffers harm as a result of a knowing violation of a provision of the bill by a school or institution or as a result of the student's reporting a violation of a provision of the bill by a school, institution, athletic association, or organization.

Status:

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104306D

01/10/24 House: Committee

HB1188 [Certificate of public need program; phased elimination.](#)

Chief Patron: Scott, P.A.

Summary:

Creates a three-phase process to eliminate the certificate of public need requirements for many categories of medical care facilities and projects, with elimination of the requirement for a certificate of public need (i) for all medical care facilities other than nursing homes or specialized centers or clinics or that portion of a physician's office developed for the provision of outpatient or ambulatory surgery, cardiac catheterization, computed tomographic (CT) scanning, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), positron emission tomographic (PET) scanning, radiation therapy, certain stereotactic radiotherapy, or proton beam therapy effective July 1, 2024; (ii) for all such services as described in clause (i) at any existing medical care facility other than nursing homes or specialized centers or clinics or that portion of a physician's office developed for the provision of outpatient or ambulatory surgery, cardiac catheterization, computed tomographic (CT) scanning, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), positron emission tomographic (PET) scanning, radiation therapy, certain stereotactic radiotherapy, or proton beam therapy located outside of a metropolitan statistical area or in a rural census tract within a metropolitan statistical area effective July 1, 2025; and (iii) for all medical care facilities effective July 1, 2026.

Status:

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24100383D

01/10/24 House: Committee

HB1191 [Virginia Public Procurement Act; construction management and design-build contracting.](#)

Companion Bill: SB18

Chief Patron: Sickles

Summary:

States that design-bid-build, defined in the bill, utilizing competitive sealed bidding is the preferred method of procurement for construction services in the Commonwealth. Complex projects, defined in

the bill, may request an exemption from the provisions of the bill and relevant law from the Division of Engineering and Buildings of the Department of General Services. The bill requires all documents related to the proposed use of construction management or design-build by state public bodies and institutions of higher education and any available subcontractor opportunities to be posted on eVA. The bill transfers from the Department of General Services to the Division of Engineering and Buildings the authority to evaluate the proposed use of construction management or design-build by state public bodies and institutions of higher education and specifies that a local governing body must approve at a public meeting the use of construction management or design-build by a local public body. Finally, the bill prohibits state public bodies, institutions of higher education, and local governing bodies from considering prior construction management or design-build experience of contractors on comparable projects.

Status:

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104340D

01/10/24 House: Committee

HB1192 [State debt collection; statute of limitations.](#)

Chief Patron: Scott, P.A.

Summary:

Establishes a seven year statute of limitations on the commencement of any action by a state agency or institution to collect past due accounts receivable due to the Commonwealth.

Status:

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24100244D

01/10/24 House: Committee

HB1229 [Elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education; student participation.](#)

Chief Patron: Higgins

Summary:

Requires each interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural, or club athletic team or sport sponsored by a public school, or any other school that is a member of the Virginia High School League, or by a public institution of higher education to be expressly designated as one of the following based on biological sex: (i) males, men, or boys; (ii) females, women, or girls; or (iii) coed or mixed if participation on such team or sport is open to both males, men, or boys and females, women, or girls. The bill prohibits any such team or sport that is expressly designated for females, women, or girls from being open to students whose biological sex is male. The bill creates a civil cause of action for any student that suffers harm as a result of a knowing violation of a provision of the bill by a school or institution or as a result of the student's reporting a violation of a provision of the bill by a school, institution, athletic association, or organization. The bill also limits access to any restroom or changing room that is capable of being

accessed by more than one individual at one time in any public elementary or secondary school building or building owned or controlled by any public institution of higher education exclusively to individuals of the same biological sex.

Status:

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24103418D

01/10/24 House: Committee

HB1255 Public institutions of higher education; diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.

Chief Patron: Milde

Summary:

Requires the chief executive officer of each public institution of higher education to annually submit to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the Governor, and the Chairmen of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education of Health no later than August 1 a written, signed certification that no diversity, equity, and inclusion-related program, instruction, or initiative provided or sponsored by such institution promotes anti-Semitism.

Status:

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24103182D

01/10/24 House: Committee

HB1265 Consumer reporting agencies; medical debt.

Chief Patron: Willett

Summary:

Prohibits a consumer reporting agency from making any consumer report containing any adverse item of information that the consumer reporting agency knows or should know concerns medical debt except in the case of any consumer report to be used in connection with a credit transaction involving a principal amount that exceeds the national conforming loan limit value for a one-unit property as determined annually by the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

Status:

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24103884D

01/10/24 House: Committee

HB1307 State Council of Higher Education for Virginia; survey; baccalaureate public institutions.

Chief Patron: Reaser

Summary:

Requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to survey each baccalaureate public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth to determine, for the 2023–2024 academic year, (i) the median, average, and full per-student application fee charged by the institution; (ii) the total number and percentage of student applicants who receive an application fee waiver from the institution; (iii) the total number and percentage of student applicants who were charged the full student application fee by the institution; (iv) the total and per-student applicant revenue generated by the institution through student application fees; and (v) the total and per-student applicant cost to the institution to process student applications, including fully reviewing and acting upon such applications, disaggregated by each cost category deemed relevant by the Council and the institution. The bill requires each baccalaureate public institution of higher education to conduct such internal audits as it deems necessary to fully comply with and respond to such survey. The bill requires the Council to report its findings and any associated recommendations to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Committee on Appropriations, the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Education and Health, and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations no later than November 1, 2024.

Status:

01/10/24 House: Presented and ordered printed 24105151D

01/10/24 House: Committee

HB1342 [Certain baccalaureate public institutions of higher education; on-campus student health centers.](#)

Chief Patron: Shin

Summary:

Requires each baccalaureate public institution of higher education that has an on-campus student health center to staff such center with at least one on-campus certified sexual assault forensic examiner, as defined in relevant law, for the purpose of administering a physical evidence recovery kit, as defined in relevant law, to any student who is in need of such a kit.

Status:

01/12/24 House: Presented and ordered printed 24104491D

01/12/24 House: Committee

HB1355 [Information Technology Access Act; digital accessibility.](#)

Chief Patron: Tran

Summary:

Makes numerous organizational changes to the Information Technology Access Act. The bill defines "information and communications technology" as it relates to digital accessibility, defined in the bill, for

all persons with disabilities. The bill permits the head of each covered entity, defined in the bill, to designate an employee to serve as such covered entity's digital accessibility coordinator and provides that such digital accessibility coordinator is responsible for developing and implementing such covered entity's digital accessibility policy. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2025.

Status:

01/14/24 House: Committee Referral Pending

HB1365 [Public institutions of higher education; release of student transcripts.](#)

Chief Patron: Carr

Summary:

Requires each public institution of higher education to release an academic transcript directly to the employer or prospective employer of a student currently or formerly enrolled at such institution upon the request of the student. The bill also prohibits any public institution of higher education from conditioning the release of an academic transcript to a student currently or formerly enrolled at such institution on the payment of an outstanding debt if (i) such outstanding debt is less than \$500; (ii) such outstanding debt is less than \$1000 and such currently or formerly enrolled student received a Federal Pell Grant; or (iii) such currently or formerly enrolled student has enrolled in a repayment plan and has made at least three consecutive monthly payments on such outstanding debt.

Status:

01/15/24 House: Committee Referral Pending

HJ15 [Dependents of public school personnel, etc.; SCHEV to study reduced in-state tuition rates.](#)

Chief Patron: Helmer

Summary:

Requests the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to study, in collaboration with the Department of Education, the feasibility and efficacy of offering the dependents of public school instructional, administrative, and support personnel in the Commonwealth reduced rate in-state tuition at public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth for the purpose of improving retention rates of public school instructional, administrative, and support personnel in the Commonwealth.

Status:

01/04/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24100940D

01/04/24 House: Committee

HJ21 [Study; State Council of Higher Education for Virginia; public institutions of higher education.](#)

Chief Patron: Seibold

Summary:

Requests the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to study the feasibility of implementing a guaranteed first-year admission policy at each public institution of higher education for certain high school graduates in the Commonwealth and report its finding and recommendations no later than the first day of the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

Status:

01/08/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104258D

01/08/24 House: Committee

HJ61 **Study; State Council of Higher Education for Virginia; \$10,000 per year baccalaureate degree; repo**

Chief Patron: Runion

Summary:

Requests that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (i) study the feasibility of implementing the option for students to pay \$10,000 annually for tuition and mandatory fees to earn a degree at a baccalaureate public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth by surveying each baccalaureate public institution of higher education to determine the likely impact of such an option on enrollment, revenue, costs, services, staffing, and such other factors as the institution deems relevant and (ii) report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly no later than November 30, 2024.

Status:

01/10/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24103567D

01/10/24 House: Committee

SB18 **Virginia Public Procurement Act; construction management & design-build contracting, applicability.**

Companion Bill: HB1191

Chief Patron: Locke

Summary:

States that design-bid-build, defined in the bill, utilizing competitive sealed bidding is the preferred method of procurement for construction services in the Commonwealth. Complex projects, defined in the bill, may request an exemption from the provisions of the bill and relevant law from the Division of Engineering and Buildings of the Department of General Services. The bill requires all documents related to the proposed use of construction management or design-build by state public bodies and institutions of higher education and any available subcontractor opportunities to be posted on eVA. The bill transfers

from the Department of General Services to the Division of Engineering and Buildings the authority to evaluate the proposed use of construction management or design-build by state public bodies and institutions of higher education and specifies that a local governing body must approve at a public meeting the use of construction management or design-build by a local public body. Finally, the bill prohibits state public bodies, institutions of higher education, and local governing bodies from considering prior construction management or design-build experience of contractors on comparable projects.

Status:

11/29/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24100807D

11/29/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

SB21 **Public institutions of higher education; policies; individuals with disabilities.**

Companion Bill: HB509

Chief Patron: Salim

Summary:

Requires each public institution of higher education to adopt a policy that makes certain documentation or evidence enumerated in the bill that is submitted by an enrolled or admitted student sufficient to establish that the student is an individual with a disability. The bill requires each such policy to include a transparent and explicit process by which the institution determines eligibility for accommodations for an individual with a disability and requires each such institution to disseminate information about such process to students, the parents of students as appropriate, and faculty in accessible formats, including during any student orientation, and make such information available on a conspicuous and publicly accessible page on the institution's website.

Status:

12/07/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24102839D

12/07/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

SB29 **Budget Bill.**

Companion Bill: HB29

Chief Patron: Lucas

Summary:

Amends Chapter 2 of the Acts of Assembly of 2022, Special Session I, as amended by Chapter 769 of the Acts of Assembly of 2023, as further amended by Chapter 1 of the Acts of Assembly of 2023, Special Session I.

Status:

12/20/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104099D

12/20/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on Finance and Appropriations

SB30 [Budget Bill.](#)

Companion Bill: HB30

Chief Patron: Lucas

Summary:

Provides for all appropriations of the Budget submitted by the Governor of Virginia in accordance with the provisions of § 2.2-1509 of the Code of Virginia, and provides a portion of revenues for the two years ending respectively on the thirtieth day of June 2025 and the thirtieth day of June 2026.

Status:

12/20/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104113D

12/20/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on Finance and Appropriations

SB36 [Virginia Freedom of Information Act; definition of meetings.](#)

Companion Bill: HB818

Chief Patron: Locke

Summary:

Exempts certain public meetings from the definition of "meeting" under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to clarify that three or more members of a public body may appear and participate in such public meeting without violating the Act, provided that no public business is transacted or discussed.

Status:

12/16/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24102327D

12/16/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

SB46 [Higher educational institutions, public; admissions applications, legacy admissions, etc.](#)

Companion Bill: HB48

Chief Patron: VanValkenburg

Summary:

Status:

12/21/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101274D
12/21/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health
01/12/24 Senate: Assigned Education and Health Sub: Higher Education

SB71 [Higher educational institutions, public; admissions applications, legacy admissions, etc.](#)

Chief Patron: McPike

Summary:

Prohibits any public institution of higher education from providing any manner of preferential treatment in the admissions decision to any student applicant on the basis of such student's legacy status, defined in the bill, or such student's familial relationship to any donor to such institution.

Status:

12/28/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104326D
12/28/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health
01/12/24 Senate: Assigned Education and Health Sub: Higher Education

SB124 [Sports betting; permitted on Virginia college sports.](#)

Chief Patron: VanValkenburg

Summary:

Permits betting, with the exception of proposition betting, on Virginia college sports. Under current law, betting other than proposition betting is allowed on all college sports except Virginia college sports.

Status:

01/04/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101271D
01/04/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

SB153 [Medical Ethics Defense Act; established.](#)

Companion Bill: HB8

Chief Patron: Head

Summary:

Establishes the right of a medical practitioner, health care institution, or health care payer not to

participate in or pay for any medical procedure or service that violates such medical practitioner's, health care institution's, or health care payer's conscience, as those terms and conditions are defined in the bill. The bill provides protections for medical practitioners who disclose violations of the bill or report violations of laws or ethical guidelines for the safe provision of any medical procedure or service. The bill also provides a private right of action for any party harmed by violations of the bill.

Status:

01/05/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104587D

01/05/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

SB219 [Va. Nat'l Guard State Tuition Assistance Program; provisions relating to eligibility for grants.](#)

Companion Bill: HB366

Chief Patron: Sturtevant

Summary:

Makes several changes to the Virginia National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program, including (i) making the provisions relating to the requirements and conditions for eligibility for and award of grants under the Program subject to regulations as prescribed by the Adjutant General, (ii) eliminating the requirement to satisfy financial obligations with the institution of higher education at the beginning of each semester, (iii) simplifying the requirements relating to academic performance and good standing, and (iv) providing that any grant awarded shall be in an amount equivalent to the difference between the full cost of tuition and fees at the institution of higher education less any other educational benefits for which an individual is eligible as a member of the National Guard.

Status:

01/08/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104580D

01/08/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

SB222 [Commonwealth information security; requirements of state public bodies.](#)

Companion Bill: HB1095

Chief Patron: McGuire

Summary:

Requires state public bodies, defined in the bill, to (i) comply with the Commonwealth's security policies and standards, (ii) ensure each of its employees completes information security training, (iii) conduct regular security audits, and (iv) report the results of such audits to the appropriate entity. The bill directs the Chief Information Officer of the Commonwealth to (a) publish and maintain a list of the Commonwealth's security policies and standards with which state public bodies are required to comply, (b) ensure that transition meetings with state public bodies occur, and (c) document such transitions and

any exemptions from the requirements of the bill.

Status:

01/08/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24103126D

01/08/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

SB249 [Virginia Public Procurement Act; construction management and design-build contracting.](#)

Companion Bill: HB1108

Chief Patron: McPike

Summary:

Limits the use of construction management or design-build contracts by state public bodies and covered institutions for complex projects. The bill requires state public bodies, covered institutions, and local public bodies to provide documentation of the processes used for the final selection of a contract to all the unsuccessful applicants upon request. The bill adds certain requirements for covered institutions, including posting all documents exchanged between the Department of General Services and the covered institution on the central electronic procurement website eVA and requires approval by the covered institution's board of visitors or governing board if the covered institution chooses to proceed with construction management or design-build against the recommendation of the Department. The bill requires a local public body to adopt a resolution or motion to use construction management or design-build prior to issuing a Request for Qualifications and to publish notice of such resolution or motion on its website or eVA. Finally, the bill provides that the Department shall report annually, for any construction management or design-build project, on the qualifications that made such project complex.

Status:

01/09/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104319D

01/09/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

SB277 [Certificate of public need; expansion of expedited application and review process.](#)

Chief Patron: Hashmi

Summary:

Requires the Board of Health to promulgate regulations expanding the expedited application and review process for certificates of public need to numerous additional project types.

Status:

01/09/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101587D

01/09/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

SB318 [Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program; established, report.](#)

Chief Patron: Roem

Summary:

Establishes the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program (the Program) to address student food insecurity at public institutions of higher education. The bill provides that the Program shall be managed by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and available for participation by public institutions of higher education; however, participation in the Program shall be optional for such institutions. Under the bill, if a public institution of higher education satisfies certain criteria set out in the bill, including creating initiatives on campus to address student food insecurity, it shall be designated as a "Hunger-Free Campus" and the Council shall award a grant to such institution. A public institution of higher education that receives a grant under the bill shall utilize the funds to support on-campus efforts and initiatives to eliminate student food insecurity at such institution. The bill requires the Council to submit a report to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education no later than two years after the establishment of the Program.

Status:

01/09/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104716D

01/09/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

01/12/24 Senate: Assigned Education and Health Sub: Higher Education

SB347 [Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program.](#)

Chief Patron: Reeves

Summary:

Provides that the stepchild of a living veteran or military service member, as described in the bill, is eligible to receive a tuition and fee waiver under the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program if such living veteran or military service member claimed such stepchild on his tax return for at least five years prior to the date on which the admission application was submitted. The bill reduces the scope of the Program's applicability by providing that an admitted qualified survivor or dependent is only eligible for a waiver of tuition and mandatory fees (i) for an undergraduate program at any public institution of higher education and (ii) up to the amount necessary to pay for the last-dollar cost of the tuition and mandatory fees after all other federal and state financial aid to which such qualified survivor or dependent is entitled are utilized. Current law does not limit eligibility for a waiver of tuition and mandatory fees to undergraduate programs and does not require such waiver to be limited any tuition and mandatory fees remaining after all other federal and state financial aid to which the qualified survivor or dependent is entitled are utilized. The bill also provides that a qualified survivor or dependent, in order to be eligible for a waiver of tuition and mandatory fees, must (a) complete the federal Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) each year for which he seeks to receive a waiver and (b) maintain satisfactory academic progress pursuant to 20 U.S.C. § 1091(c). Finally, the bill exempts from the requirement limiting the receipt and use of such waivers to undergraduate programs any individual who qualified for a waiver of tuition and mandatory fees under the Program prior to the

provisions of the bill going into effect and is currently enrolled in a public institution of higher education or Eastern Virginia Medical School.

Status:

01/09/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24103278D

01/09/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

01/12/24 Senate: Assigned Education and Health Sub: Higher Education

SB374 [Collective bargaining by public employees; labor organization representation.](#)

Companion Bill: HB1001

Chief Patron: Boysko

Summary:

Repeals the existing prohibition on collective bargaining by public employees. The bill creates the Public Employee Relations Board, which shall determine appropriate bargaining units and provide for certification and decertification elections for exclusive bargaining representatives of state employees and local government employees. The bill requires public employers and employee organizations that are exclusive bargaining representatives to meet at reasonable times to negotiate in good faith with respect to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment. The bill repeals a provision that declares that, in any procedure providing for the designation, selection, or authorization of a labor organization to represent employees, the right of an individual employee to vote by secret ballot is a fundamental right that shall be guaranteed from infringement.

Status:

01/09/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24105023D

01/09/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SB383 [Firearm/explosive material; carrying w/in Capitol Square or bldg. owned or leased by Commonwealth.](#)

Companion Bill: HB454

Chief Patron: Deeds

Summary:

Limits the exemption from the prohibition on the carrying of any firearm or explosive material within any building owned or leased by the Commonwealth or agency thereof or any office where employees of the Commonwealth or any agency thereof are regularly present for the purpose of performing their official duties that currently applies to any property owned or operated by a public institution of higher education to instead apply to any individual within a building owned or operated by a public institution of higher education who possesses a weapon as part of such public institution of higher education's

curriculum or activities or as part of any organization authorized by such public institution of higher education to conduct its programs or activities within such building.

Status:

01/09/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24100412D

01/09/24 Senate: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

01/10/24 Senate: Impact statement from VCSC (SB383)

01/10/24 Senate: Moved from Judiciary to Courts of Justice due to a change of the committee name

SB411 [Animal testing facilities; public notification.](#)

Companion Bill: HB580

Chief Patron: Boysko

Summary:

Requires any animal testing facility, contract testing facility, or manufacturer that uses an animal test method to annually make publicly available certain information relating to animal testing by displaying a link to access such information on the home page or landing page of any such facility's or manufacturer's website. The bill also provides that when documents generated from internal reviews pertain to violations of federal animal welfare regulations and guidelines and are the subject of a request for information pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, an animal testing facility shall not charge more than \$25 to produce such documents.

Status:

01/09/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24102885D

01/09/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

SB493 [Medical malpractice; limitations on recovery; certain actions.](#)

Chief Patron: Stanley

Summary:

Eliminates the cap on the recovery in actions against health care providers for medical malpractice where the act or acts of malpractice occurred on or after July 1, 2024, and occurred against a patient age 10 or younger.

Status:

01/09/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24100498D

01/09/24 Senate: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

SB506 [Public institutions of higher education; legal counsel; scope of](#)

employment; duties and powers.

Chief Patron: Surovell

Summary:

Provides that the governing board of each public institution of higher education shall have authority over the employment of all legal counsel for the institution, including decision-making authority in the commencement or termination of any legal counsel, the employment of outside legal counsel, the oversight and management of any legal counsel, and the appointment of a general counsel to serve as the chief legal officer of the institution. The bill provides that the chief legal officer and the vice president or similarly situated executive officer of such institution shall, under the direction of the governing board of such institution, conduct the legal affairs of and provide legal advice and representation for such institution on any matter that the governing board determines to be in the interest of the institution. The bill clarifies the scope of the involvement of the Attorney General in the legal affairs of public institutions of higher education, providing that the Attorney General may only provide legal service to a public institution of higher education upon request of the governing board of such institution or upon the governing board's decision to delegate all authority in accordance with the provisions of the bill. The bill also provides that the approval of the Attorney General shall be required for any legal settlement involving consideration in excess of \$5 million. The bill permits the governing board of any public institution of higher education with less than 7,500 full-time students to delegate all authority over legal counsel conferred pursuant to the provisions of the bill but requires any such governing board (i) intending to make such delegation to submit notice of such intention by January 1, 2025 and (ii) intending thereafter to delegate such authority or to rescind a prior delegation of such authority to submit notice of such intention by January 1 of the immediately succeeding odd-numbered year. Finally, the bill clarifies the duties of the governing board of each public institution of higher education in its collective capacity and of the members of such governing board in their individual capacities.

Status:

01/09/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104446D

01/09/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health

SB515 Weapons; possession or transportation; facility that provides mental health services or development.

Companion Bill: HB861

Chief Patron: Williams Graves

Summary:

Makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person to possess in or transport into any facility that provides mental health services or developmental services in the Commonwealth, including a hospital or an emergency department or other facility rendering emergency medical care, any (i) firearm or other weapon designed or intended to propel a missile or projectile of any kind; (ii) knife, except a pocket knife having a folding metal blade of less than three inches; or (iii) other dangerous weapon, including explosives and stun weapons. The bill provides that any such firearm, knife, explosive, or weapon is subject to seizure by a law-enforcement officer and specifies exceptions to the prohibition.

Status:

01/09/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101827D
01/09/24 Senate: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

SB601 [Capital outlay plan.](#)

Companion Bill: HB715

Chief Patron: Lucas

Summary:

Updates the six-year capital outlay plan for projects to be funded entirely or partially from general fund-supported resources.

Status:

01/10/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24102529D
01/10/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Finance and Appropriations

SB624 [Public education; student literacy measures.](#)

Companion Bill: HB647

Chief Patron: Lucas

Summary:

Clarifies several provisions of the Virginia Literacy Act (the Act), enacted during the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly and effective with the 2024%962025 school year, including (i) clarifying that the term "evidence-based literacy instruction" does not include practices that instruct students to gain meaning from print through the use of (a) three-cueing, which includes semantic, syntactic, and graphophonic cues; (b) meaning, structure, and visual cues; or (c) visual memory for word recognition; (ii) removing the option to use a literacy screener approved by the Department of Education for certain purposes enumerated in the Act; (iii) requiring the Department to develop a list of core literacy curricula for students in kindergarten through grade five and supplemental instruction practices and programs and intervention programs for students in kindergarten through grade eight that consist of evidence-based literacy instruction aligned with science-based reading research; and (iv) requiring each divisionwide literacy plan to address how the local school board will align (a) core reading and literacy curriculum for students in kindergarten through grade five and (b) screening, supplemental instruction, and interventions for students in kindergarten through grade eight with evidence-based literacy instruction practices aligned with science-based reading research.

Status:

01/10/24 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24103040D

01/10/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Education and Health